

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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| In the Matter of the Revocation |) | |
| |) | |
| or Suspension of the Educator |) | ORDER OF SUSPENSION |
| |) | (BREACH OF CONTRACT) |
| Certificate of Christina Boston |) | |
| |) | |
| Certificate # 183176 |) | |

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on Tuesday, February 10, 2004. On January 6, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Christina Boston a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate (certificate) by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Boston received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Ms. Boston did not request a hearing during the period allowed by law, and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, which was undisputed by Ms. Boston, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Boston's certificate for one year.

Ms. Boston holds a valid certificate, and was a first year math teacher at Hillcrest High School in the Greenville County School District (District). On November 5, 2003, Ms. Boston notified the principal at Hillcrest High School of her intention, effectively immediately, not to return for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year. Ms. Boston gave no reason for her decision. On November 14, 2003, the District Superintendent wrote Ms. Boston a letter advising her that her resignation did not meet board policy, and that a one-year suspension of her certificate would be recommended to the State Board of Education. Ms. Boston did not return to the classroom. On December 9, 2003, the District Board voted to file a complaint with the State Board for breach of

contract, and to request that the State Board suspend Ms. Boston's certificate #183176 for a period of one year.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (1990). Unprofessional conduct includes breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is conclusive evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Boston's certificate # 183176 for a period of one year from February 10, 2004, through February 9, 2005, on the ground of unprofessional conduct due to breach of contract. At the end of the suspension period if Ms. Boston wants her certificate reinstated, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 10, 2004